

**STEVENS VILLAGE TRIBAL
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**BIA FY08 IRR QUARTERLY REPORT
January-March 2008**

Following is the FY08 2nd. quarter report for the Stevens Village Indian Reservation Roads (IRR) contract # E003706136.

Roads/IRR:

The Indian Reservation Roads Program is contracted in a separate BIA P.L. 93-638 contract which provides for its own reports and contracts for the work accomplished under the separate funding. However, the Roads activities require coordination with the Natural Resource program and the many other projects that the Tribe is undertaking. Following is an updated listing of the projects that the IRR program has undertaken during this period and their relationship to the responsibilities of the Tribal Natural Resource Program along with their current status.

Community Roads Project: -a \$3.435 million dollar construction project to engineer, design, and rebuild all the main roads in the Village. The environmental, Cultural and Historic Preservation, wildlife impacts, Right-of-Way, Contracting, Local Employment, Permitting, and Townsite and Allotment impacts are concerns of the Resource Management Program. Currently the engineering and design is completed except for the Right of Way which is waiting for the village members to agree to easements across their lands for the new road. All funds have been raised but the easement documents have not been returned, to date.

The New Solid Waste Landfill Project: This \$2.4 million dollar road project is being done by the State DOT&PF but requires community input and oversight. It is the responsibility of the Resource Program to ensure that the Tribally owned Lands, Cultural and Historical Resources, Environmental, and financial considerations are being addressed. A key to the success of this project is the new landfill funding from the USDA Rural Development agency for a \$246,000 Grant to the Tribe. These funds will actually be used to construct the New Landfill, while the States funding will be used to build the road. We have completed additional Grant applications to the Denali Commission requesting funds to close the Old Dump and provide a Burn Barrel incineration system and fencing at the new dump. The Resources responsibility is, once again, to ensure that these efforts are coordinated between the funding agencies, the engineering company, and the permitting and oversight agencies. The ultimate protection of the Land, Environment, and the resources remains our primary concern. The project is prepared to begin after the State DOT&PF puts the project out to bids, selects a contractor, and authorizes the contractor to proceed. It is anticipated that the Contractor will barge in equipment this summer and the gravel will be excavated from the river next fall. The USDA Rural Development Landfill Grant will be contracted out to the same Construction Company and will be completed at the same time. All funding has already been allocated for the project. In addition, the IRR community roads project

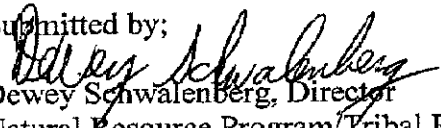
will be bid out as well. We are trying to acquire heavy construction equipment from the BIA to help in this project. We have met recently with the Denali Commission representatives, the BIA High Priority Projects representatives, the BIA IRR representatives, and the WH Pacific engineering representatives to insure that all entities are on board with the Construction schedule. We are in contact with the USDA Rural Development staff to tie them into the project schedule, as well.

The Dalton Highway Access Project: This years activities includes the completion of a pre-engineering feasibility study that will determine; if a road to the Dalton Highway from the Village is possible; what the environmental impacts of such a road might be; what the current costs would be; and whether or not the community, governmental agencies, and private organizations would support such an undertaking. The Denali Commission has provided \$500,000 for this project which is being contracted to the Western Federal Lands Administration Agency that is completing the Study. The Resource Program has been involved with this process and has supplied the Agency with all the documents that we have completed in our early analysis of the route and identified the potential for impact on the lands, habitat, and resources. We conducted a flyover of the proposed route and evaluated the Western Lands suggestions for alternative routes. We will continue to participate in this process as the project moves toward completion.

Road Inventory and Construction Activities: The Program has continued to work with the Engineering Firm WH Pacific to expand the Councils Road Inventory to include transportation road mileage from the village half way to Beaver, Alaska up river of the village and approximately 50 additional road miles along the Dalton Highway from the Yukon River Bridge to the Arctic Circle. These miles have been submitted to the BIA for inclusion in the Tribes Roads Inventory. If accepted, the Council will receive funding to manage and/or assist in the maintenance of these transportation corridors. The Resource Program is obviously concerned with the impacts that these roads/trails would have on the habitat/environment/resources along these routes.

We attended the BIA Transportation Symposium in Fairbanks and provided testimony to the Transportation Panel concerning the devastating effect that limiting Tribal full participation in the IRR Program would have on the community and the Tribal self-determination and self-governance. There is a move a-foot to limit a Tribes road inventory to within a four mile in diameter Townsite area. This would virtually eliminate the small village Tribal Roads programs. And thus any economic value that the Tribes are beginning to realize. The Council strongly opposes this reduction in allowable Road Inventory and will contact the US Congressional Delegation to inform them of the proposed action.

Submitted by;


Dewey Schwalenberg, Director
Natural Resource Program/Tribal Roads Coordinator